

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/915,030

Examiner

FIRMIN BACKER

Applicant(s)

MUSSON, ROBERT ALAN

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

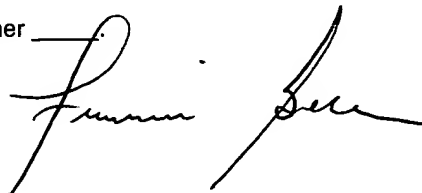
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Michael Sanderson on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1 and 18, delete the word "thereby"  
cancel/delete claim 21.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
  - a. Applicant discloses an invention a method and a system for licensing electronic data. Electronic data may be provided such that a wrapper is provided and associated with additional data. The wrapper may be customized to enforce any license which a user has validity acquired from the data provider. Applicant's invention is novel and innovative in the sense that it provide a system and method for removing at least a portion of the data file at the computing device preventing a use associated with the data file wrapping a license authentication set of executable instructions around the data file, executing the license authentication set of executable instructions at the computing

device to determine whether the data file is associated with a valid license, and at the computing device, restoring the removed portion of the data file if the valid license exists thereby making the data file available for use. The closest prior arts Beery (20010034846) teach a system and method of preserving digital intellectual property data and software security utilizing a network by removing a random chunk of data from executable code and only delivering the proper chunk, size and location upon successful authentication of the user. Kenton et al teach an invention relates generally to peripheral devices connected to a computer system. More specifically, the present invention relates to an automated system and method of encouraging computer system customers to purchase licenses before employing certain types of peripheral devices for use with their computer system. Berry taken alone or in combination with Kenton et al fail to teach or suggest a system and method for removing at least a portion of the data file at the computing device preventing a use associated with the data file wrapping a license authentication set of executable instructions around the data file, executing the license authentication set of executable instructions at the computing device to determine whether the data file is associated with a valid license, and at the computing device, restoring the removed portion of the data file if the valid license exists thereby making the data file available for use.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

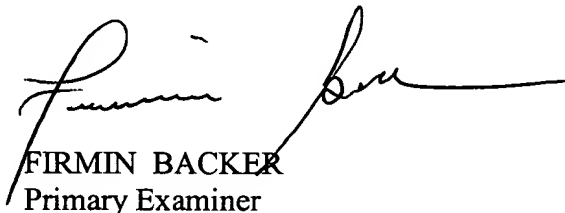
***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (see form 892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FIRMIN BACKER whose telephone number is 571-272-6703. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
FIRMIN BACKER  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3621

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006